(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Indian nationals who have informed the Central Government of their intention to change their citizenship?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) There is no requirement under the provisions of Indian Citizenship Act, 1955 for Indian nationals to inform Government of India about their disowning Indian citizenship while seeking citizenship of another country.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Konar Canal Project of Bihar

4655. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of the Konar Canal Project of Bihar which commenced in 1978 is still incomplete;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to complete it expeditiously; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) to (d) Spillover cost into the Eighth Plan was Rs. 152.79 crores, where as Eighth Plan approved outlay is only Rs. 30 crores. Approved/Proposed outlay for 1992-93 to 1995-96 is Rs. 13.49 crores only. Irrigation is a State subject. Projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Government from their own resources. The completion of the project will depend upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

[English]

Irrigation Rates

4656. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to rationalise the irrigational rates in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that some State Governments are not able to bear the cost of the operations and maintenance of the irrigation projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to assist those State Governments in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Irrigation being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to act on the rationalising of the irrigation water rates. No assistance is provided by the Central Government to any State to meet the cost of maintenance of irrigation projects. Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water in October, 1991 under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidyanathan former Member, Planning Commission to examine various aspects of water pricing in the country. The Committee in its report submitted in September, 1992 has made important suggestions to rationalise the irrigation water rates and thereby reduce the gap between revenue realised through irrigation and related charges and the cost of realised through irrigation and related charges and the cost of operation and maintenance of irrigation projects. The recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee were further studied by the Group of officers set up by the Planning Commission in October, 1992. The Group in its report of December, 1994, recommended, inter-alia, that the irrigation water rates should cover the full annual operation and maintenance cost in phases in next 5 years period. The recommendations of the Group alongwith the report of the Vaidyanathan Committee have been sent by the Planning Commission to all the States for necessary action.

Recognition to Nurses Union

4657. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nurses Union in All India Institute of Medical Sciences is a recognised body;

(b) if so, since when and if not, why;

(c) whether such Union was denied recognition since some years;

(d) if so, since when and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the union has requested for recognition and whether some conditions have been stated by the management to accord recognition;

(f) if so, what were the conditions; and

(g) the present position of the Union and whether the management recognises any Union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Nurses Union was recognised on 3.4.92 for a period of two years. Recognition was not extended further due to delay in fulfillment of certain conditions under CCS (RSA) Rules, 1993 by the Nurses Union.